

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

President - Fred Laun K3ZO

Vice President - John Pescatore WB2EKK

Secretary - Roger Kaul K3TM

Vice President - Don Daso WA8MAZ

Treasurer - Bill Hider N3RR

The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. All radio amateurs interested in contesting and HF operating are invited to attend and apply for membership. Meetings alternate between College Park and Temple Hills MD. Anyone on the 147.00 repeater can provide directions or other information.

PVRC members have established a packet radio based DX spotting system on 145.51 (WØYVA), .57 (N2FB), .59 (W3LPL), and .63.(K3NA). Try it out and contact KN3P to support the system.

BULLETIN EDITOR

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Send me your comments
articles, opinions, etc.

Deadline: 20th each month.

August Bulletin

PVRC/NCDXA FOWL FEST

4 AUGUST 1990
5801 Huntland Rd.
Temple Hills, MD
12:00 Noon

To get to the Fowlfest at the K3ZO QTH, take the Washington Beltway 495 to the Branch Avenue South Exit. Take a right at the first traffic light onto Manchester. At the stop sign, turn right and follow this street for several miles. After a sharp right hand curve and a "Hidden Driveway" sign, turn right onto Huntland Rd. Park at 5801 or 5803.

Each family should bring a salad or dessert dish, and lawn chairs. Everything else will be provided. Talk-in will be on the 147.00 repeater.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Well, it finally happened. After swearing for years that I would do so, I got a computer. What's more, I got the K1EA CT software (thanks to K3ZJ and W3ZZ for that). And yes, I have learned a new cuss word — DOS! Take my advice and never use the recover command. I managed to rename all of the items on my hard disk with it, including all the DOS operating instructions!!

Theoretically I could now send this to your editor by modem since I have one, but I still haven't unpacked it. I'm trying to learn this computer business little by little. Thanks especially to Gene Zimmerman W3ZZ who has been giving me a rapid short course in the fundamentals. Thanks also to K3WX, N6AA, and K1VR for advice on sources of hardware and exactly what to get.

Suffice it to say, doing away forever with the drudgery on manual dupe checking is reason enough to get into computers and get K1EA's CT program. In addition to that, being able to ask the computer whether or not you have already worked someone or not is great! And the running score and rate information is very useful. I am a hunt and peck typist but, just practicing putting calls into the CT program, I found I could type calls and exchanges into the program at a rate of 350 per hour, so it is very well set up for non-typists.

Start thinking about who you want for your next club officers. Elections will be in October, not that far away.

73 Fred K3ZO

CONTEST QSLING - JIM N3JT

There are four parts to a DX contest: preparation including antenna pruning, rig tweaking, and computer checkout; the contest weekend itself; log preparation and dispatch; and QSLs. For the most part, the first three of these are accomplished in a relatively compressed period of as short as a few days in toto. The last — QSLs — takes a year or more because many of the cards arrive by the bureaus, a process taking in some cases more than a year each way. Can anyone actually remember any contact represented by the card received via the bureau?

Some contest operators and QSL managers have made it a practice to not return QSLs if the requesting station has gotten the call wrong. Particularly in contest environments, with QRM, QRN, stations claiming frequencies within 200 Hz of you, battles over turf, all the normal contest that we all persevere, there is an increased chance of copying a callsign wrong. What responsibility does the station receiving the QSL card have to respond to the request? Has there really been a legitimate contact if the callsign was incorrect? Could the receiving station confirm the contact if he or she wants, introducing the correct callsign and confirming the contact from his own log entry? Is there some room for leniency, recognizing the possibility the other station actually copied the call correctly but erred in writing the card or transferring from sloppy contest logs to neater submission logs?

If the QSLing station appears in the log, why not respond with a QSL? After all, as a practical matter, if the manager had sent cards independent of receiving them he would have dispatched one anyhow! Moreover, how many times does the rare DX station err in sending his or her callsign? Can we know for sure that the callsign on the card was not correctly copied?

I think the balance in this sort of gray area seems to favor sending the QSL in response to a card that is accurate enough to have arrived at its intended destination. I think most QSL managers handle matters in this fashion and I am inclined to think Amateur Radio is better off for it. Any comments?

MISCELLANEOUS

Don't forget about the Fowlfest on Saturday the 4th of August at the K3ZO QTH. This will be the only local summer meeting, so if you usually get your two meeting per year in during the summer you will need to attend the Fowlfest and at least one meeting during the year. This year we will hold a meeting at the Gaithersburg hamfest, as well.

The joint PVRC/FRC summer meeting will be held on Saturday the 25th of August, at the QTH of Jon AA1K in Delaware. We had it there two years ago, with a great turnout. If you're interested in car-pooling, get on the 147.00 repeater or leave a message on the Packetcluster.

Roger Kaul K3TM is putting together another Dacron rope order. A flier with prices is printed elsewhere in the bulletin. If you are interested in ordering some rope, Roger will be at the Fowlfest to take orders.

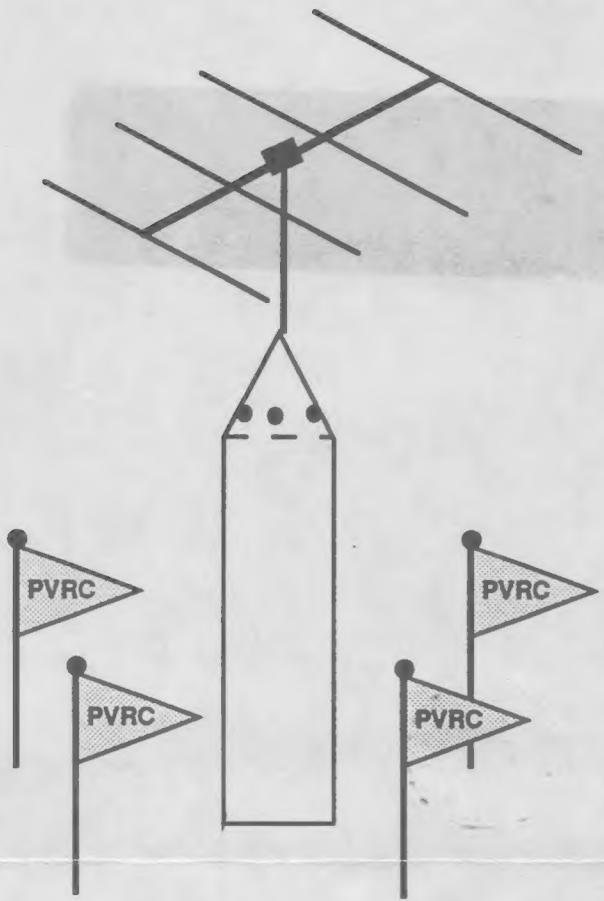
PVRC Charter member Cedric Van Pelt NØFFZ (now /9) was the top out of state scorer in the VA State QSO Party. Congratulations, Van.

The first club meeting of the coming contest season will be on Monday the 10th of September. In the next bulletin I will print a list of all PVRCers who need to attend one or more meetings in order for their scores to count in the ARRL contests this year. We lost over 15M points in the 1990 ARRL DX season because of members not attending at least two meetings in the previous year. Each year there are 8 regular meetings,

a Christmas party, two summer meetings, somewhere around 10 over-the-hill gang lunches, and the Gaithersburg Hamfest where meetings are held. Try to make at least two of the 22 chances!

CONTEST CALENDAR

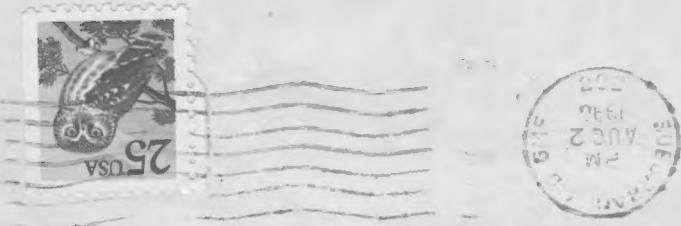
July 14-15	- CQ WW VHF WPX
July 14-15	- IARU HF
July 20-21	- Radiosport Team Ch.
August 4-5	- ARRL UHF
August 11-12	- WAE CW
August 25-26	- All Asian CW



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Potomac Valley Radio Club
John Peacock, WB2EKK
1135 Hornbill Drive
Silver Spring, Md. 20904

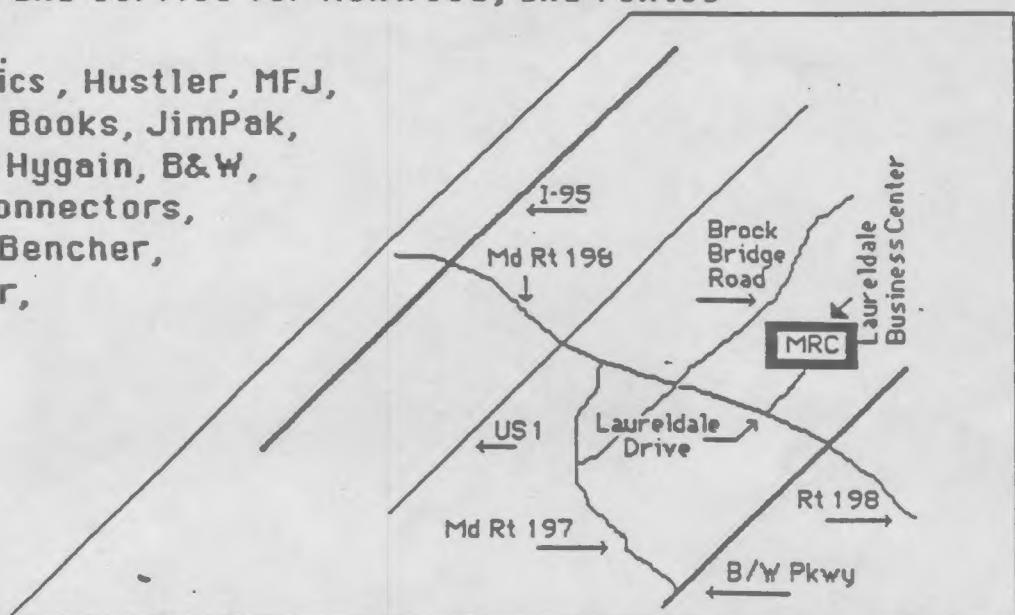
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(301)-725-1212



We're open Monday - Friday 10 AM to 7 PM, Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM